

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A suture trimmer, the suture trimmer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end and an axis therebetween, the shaft having a groove formed in a side thereof, the groove extending from the distal end toward the proximal end and being in communication with an opening formed in the side of the shaft, the opening disposed proximal the distal end of the shaft;

a cutting member slidably disposed within the shaft;

a suture retainer slidably disposed within the shaft and within the cutting member, the suture retainer having a suture protector in an exterior surface of the suture retainer, the suture protector extending from a retainer distal end toward a retainer proximal end; and

a handle disposed adjacent the proximal end of the shaft, [[wherein]] the handle further include independently operable [[a]] first [[lever]] and [[a]] second levers slidably received within the handle, the first lever operatively coupled to the suture retainer to move the suture retainer within the shaft and within the cutting member and the second lever operatively coupled to the cutting member to move the cutting member within the shaft and around the suture retainer to cut the suture and being transverse to the handle.

4. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to claim 3, wherein the handle further includes at least one biasing member, the biasing member in communication with at least one of the cutting member and a suture retainer.

5. (Currently Amended) The suture trimmer according to claim [[4]]3, wherein the opening has a proximal edge, the sharpened edge being adapted to engage the proximal edge to sever suture when suture is disposed through the groove and opening.

6. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to claim 5, wherein the sharpened edge of the cutting member is retracted within the shaft until withdrawn by applying a force to the second lever.

7. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to claim 6, wherein a suture is disposed within the groove and opening by retracting the suture retainer within the shaft by applying a force to the first lever.

8-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to claim 3, wherein the cutting member has a proximally facing cutting edge.

28. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to claim 3, wherein the first lever and the second lever are each movable with respect to the handle.

29. (New) A suture trimmer, the suture trimmer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end and an axis therebetween, the shaft having a groove formed in a side thereof, the groove extending from the distal end toward the proximal end and being in communication with an opening formed in the side of the shaft, the opening disposed proximal the distal end of the shaft;

a cutting member slidably disposed within the shaft;

a suture retainer slidably disposed within the shaft and within the cutting member, the suture retainer having a suture protector in an exterior surface of the suture retainer, the suture protector extending from a retainer distal end toward a retainer proximal end; and

a handle disposed adjacent the proximal end of the shaft, the handle further including independently operable first and second levers slidably received within the handle, the first lever operatively coupled to the suture retainer to move the suture retainer within the shaft and within the cutting member and the second lever operatively coupled to the cutting member to move the cutting member within the shaft and around the suture retainer to cut the suture and being transverse to and extending through the handle.

30. (New) The suture trimmer according to claim 29, wherein the handle further includes at least one biasing member, the biasing member in communication with at least one of the cutting member and a suture retainer.

31. (New) The suture trimmer according to claim 29, wherein the opening has a proximal edge, the sharpened edge being adapted to engage the proximal edge to sever suture when suture is disposed through the groove and opening.

32. (New) The suture trimmer according to claim 31, wherein the sharpened edge of the cutting member is retracted within the shaft until withdrawn by applying a force to the second lever.

33. (New) The suture trimmer according to claim 32, wherein a suture is disposed within the groove and opening by retracting the suture retainer within the shaft by applying a force to the first lever.

34. (New) The suture trimmer according to claim 29, wherein the cutting member has a proximally facing cutting edge.

35. (New) The suture trimmer according to claim 29, wherein the first lever and the second lever are each movable with respect to the handle.